

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGUI 01634 031851Z POSS DUPE
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 SCS-03 SCA-01 DHA-02 IO-13 SY-05 NSCE-00
SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 /087 W
-----066715 031955Z /73

O 031600Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY BANGUI
TO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9030
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE PRIORITY
USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 370
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGUI 1634

E.O.11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PINS, CT, UK
SUBJ: DETENTION OF WESTERN JOURNALIST

REF: LONDON 12776, BANGUI 1630, BANGUI 1614

1. BOKASSA'S REACTION TO IPI MESSAGE WAS EXACTLY WHAT WE ANTICIPATED IN BANGUI 1630. IT IS THE INSTINCTIVE RESPONSE OF AN ENRAGED AND UNSTABLE MAN. THERE IS NO DOUBT IN MY MIND THAT IT WAS DICTATED BY BOKASSA PERSONALLY. IT IS FULLY CONSISTENT WITH TONE OF HIS BRIEF REMARKS TO ME REPORTED BANGUI 1614, AND TWO VERY TOUGH DIPLOMATIC NOTES RECEIVED AUGUST 3 (SEPTELS).

2. AS I MENTIONED IN MY LAST MESSAGE HMG SHOULD NOT THINK IN TERMS OF CRANKING UP PRESSURE. IT WILL BE REBUFFED AS SURELY AS IPI HAS BEEN. WHATEVER NEXT STEP HMG TAKES MUST BE EXTREMELY CONCILIATORY IF IT IS TO HAVE DESIRED EFFECT OF CONTRIBUTING TO GOLDSMITH'S RELEASE. GIVEN HARSH TONE OF BOKASSA'S MESSAGE TO IPI, I AM NOT CERTAIN NOW THAT ANY FURTHER EFFORT SHOULD BE MADE
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FOR AT LEAST A DAY OR SO AND PERHAPS NOT UNTIL NEXT WEEK. FOR THE NEXT SEVERAL DAYS BOKASSA WILL BE PREOCCUPIED WITH MOBUTU VISIT, WHICH BEGINS AUGUST 4. HE WILL PRESUMABLY BE IN A SOMEWHAT MORE RELAXED MOOD AFTER VISIT. MOBUTU IS HIS CLOSEST FRIEND IN AFRICA AND VISIT WILL BE FIRST BY HEAD OF STATE SINCE PROCLAMATION OF EMPIRE (RWANDAN PRESIDENT MADE BRIEF STOPOVER EARLIER IN THE YEAR BUT WITHOUT CEREMONIAL FRILLS). BOKASSA WILL UNDOUBTEDLY

BE EXTREMELY GRATIFIED BY MOBUTU'S GESTURE OF FRATERNAL SUPPORT
IN COMING AT THIS TIME AND THERE MAY THEN BE A BETTER ATMOSPHERE
FOR BRITISH MESSAGE.

3. SINCE SITUATION HERE IS OBVIOUSLY EXTREMELY FLUID WE WILL KEEP
DEPARTMENT AND LONDON INFORMED NOT ONLY OF ANY SUBSTANTIVE DEVELOP-
MENTS BUT ALSO OF OUR THINKING ON TACTICS, WHICH MUST BE CLOSELY
KEYED TO LOCAL MOOD.
QUAINTON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DETENTION, LOBBYING, JOURNALISTS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 03-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
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Executive Order: X1
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ISecure: 1
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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